IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): A composition which has been subjected to sterilizing irradiation comprising an enzyme[,] to which has been added a source of lactate ions and a source of zinc ions and/or a source of ammonium ions sufficient to maintain activity of the enzyme after radiation sterilization.

2. (currently amended): A composition according to claim 1, wherein the enzyme is in ~~hydrated condition~~ a wet active state.

3. (original): A composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the source of ammonium ions comprises ammonium sulphate or 2-acrylamido-2-methyl propanesulphonic acid, ammonium salt (ammonium AMPS).

4. (previously presented): A composition according to claim 1, wherein the source of zinc ions is any compound capable of releasing zinc ions or zinc-containing ions in water.

5. (previously presented): A composition according to claim 4, wherein the source of lactate ions is any compound capable of releasing lactate ions or lactate-containing ions in water.

6. (previously presented): A composition according to claim 5, wherein the source of zinc ions and source of lactate ions is zinc lactate.

7. (original): A composition according to claim 6, wherein the source of zinc ions and source of lactate ions is zinc L-lactate.

8. (previously presented): A composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition additionally comprises one or more ingredients selected from sugar alcohols, proteins and neutral water-soluble polymers.

9. (original): A composition according to claim 8, wherein the composition additionally comprises a source of proteins.

10. (canceled)

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11. (currently amended): A composition according to claim ~~10~~ 1, wherein the sterilising radiation is gamma radiation.

12. (previously presented): A composition according to claim 1, wherein the enzyme comprises an oxidase.

13. (original): A composition according to claim 12, wherein the oxidase comprises glucose oxidase.

14. (original): A composition according to claim 12 or 13, including zinc lactate.

15. (original): A composition according to claim 12 or 13, including sodium lactate and ammonium AMPS.

16. (previously presented): A composition according to claim 1, wherein the enzyme comprises catalase.

17. (previously presented): A composition according to claim 1, wherein the enzyme comprises lactoperoxidase.

18. (original): A method of stabilising an enzyme in a composition during exposure to sterilising radiation by bringing the enzyme into contact with a source of zinc ions and/or a source of ammonium ions and a source of lactate ions.

19. (previously presented): A product comprising a composition in accordance with claim 1.

20. (original): A product according to claim 19, wherein the product is a skin treatment product and the enzyme is an oxidase.

21. (original): A product according to claim 20, wherein the skin treatment product is a skin dressing.

22. (original): A product according to claim 21, wherein the dressing incudes one or more hydrated hydrogels.

23. (original): A product according to claim 22, wherein the oxidase enzyme, source of zinc ions and/or a source of ammonium ions and source of lactate ions are present in one or more hydrated hydrogels.

24. (previously presented): A product according to claim 20, including a source of substrate for the oxidase enzyme.

25. (original): A product according to claim 24, wherein the substrate is located in a hydrated hydrogel.

26. (new): In a method of sterilizing a composition comprising an enzyme, the improvement which comprises sterilizing said composition by irradiating the composition with sterilizing radiation in the presence of a source of lactate ions and at least one member of the group consisting of a source of zinc ions and a source of ammonium ions thereby improving post-sterilization activity of the enzyme.